

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
R. W. GRAND LODGE,
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
F. & A. M.

AT ITS
QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 1, A.D. 1899, A.L. 5899.

TESTIMONIALS OF RESPECT TO THE MEMORY

OF

R. W. GRAND MASTER

BROTHER HENRY W. WILLIAMS.

PHILADELPHIA.

1899.



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GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Quarterly Communication.

Held at Philadelphia, March 1st, A. D. 1899, A. L. 5899.

The Acting Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother GEORGE E. WAGNER, addressed Grand Lodge and announced that Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother HENRY W. WILLIAMS, died on the 25th day of January, 1899, at the Continental Hotel in this city, and that his body was removed to his late home in Wellsboro, where, on the 28th day of January, accompanied by the Grand Officers and a large number of Brethren, he performed the Masonic Funeral Ceremony over his remains. The Acting Grand Master stated that he had requested Past Grand Master, Brother SAMUEL C. PERKINS, to prepare suitable resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the Brethren on this mournful event.

The following eulogium was then delivered:

Right Worshipful Grand Master: Sorrow has again invaded the portals of the Grand Lodge. The rejoicing of the Brethren upon the installation of the Right Worshipful

Grand Master on St. John's Day last, has been stilled in the presence of death. Our Grand Master, to whom we looked forward with so much expectation of having the benefit of his wise government during the present Masonic year, has been taken from us almost without warning, so quick was the Messenger of Death when he pointed his arrow towards our beloved Grand Master.

The Honorable HENRY W. WILLIAMS, who had been a Mason for more than forty years, and served the Grand Lodge in various stations and places by appointment and election, finally reached the summit upon which the highest honor of the Craft is conferred. Brother WILLIAMS was born in Harford, Susquehanna County, in this State, on July 30, 1830, and died on January 25, 1899, in the city of Philadelphia, while in attendance upon the sessions of the Supreme Court of the State, of which he was one of the Justices. He was buried in his family vault at Wellsboro, Tioga County, which place had been his residence for a number of years. Masonic ceremonies over his grave were performed by the Acting Right Worshipful Grand Master, assisted by the Brethren of the Grand Lodge. Brother WILLIAMS was initiated into the mysteries of Free Masonry in Ossea Lodge, No. 317, located in Wellsboro, on June 22, 1858, crafted September 10, 1858, and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on December 27, 1858. He served as Junior Warden of his Lodge during the year 1865, Senior Warden in 1866, and Worshipful Master in the year 1867. He was District Deputy Grand Master from 1881 to

1884. He was installed Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge on St. John's Day, 1892, served two years as Junior Grand Warden, two years as Senior Grand Warden, two years as Deputy Grand Master, and on St. John's Day, 1898, was installed Right Worshipful Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. He received the Degrees of Mark Master and Most Excellent Master in Tioga Chapter, No. 194, at Wellsboro, on March 30, 1866, and was exalted to the Supreme Degree of a Royal Arch Mason on April 26, 1866. He was High Priest of his Chapter during the years 1870, 1871, 1872, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886. He was a member of Tyagaghton Commandery, K. T., No. 28, stationed at Wellsboro, and was a Past Eminent Commander thereof. In all his Masonic life he was diligent, and in all the offices he held in Free Masonry he was competent and efficient. In council he was wise and prudent. He was attentive and prompt in the performance of his Masonic duties, and affable and amiable in his dealings with the Brethren. We looked forward with great pleasure to the prospect of being under his government during the time he would have served as Grand Master of this Grand Lodge according to its customs. Our hopes and anticipations have been disappointed. Our Brother has been taken from us almost at the very moment we installed him in the Station of the Right Worshipful Grand Master. Our joy has been turned into sorrow. We lament our loss and submit to the decree of the Great Architect of the Universe who does all things well.

Brother WILLIAMS was a lawyer and a judge, learned, wise, industrious, prompt and efficient in the performance of his official duties to the public. He was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in March, 1865, for the Counties of Tioga, Potter, Elk and McKean, and in the succeeding fall he was elected by the people to the position to which he had been appointed. Subsequent elections continued him as the President Judge of his district until the year 1887, when he was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State, in which office he served until the time of his death. He was known as one of the strong Judges of the State, and was called upon to decide many new questions arising out of the wonderful development of the natural products of this State, such as gas, oil, coal, iron and other minerals. He was also well versed in the land law of this State, a system as peculiar to us as is the system of California peculiar to that State. Local habits, local customs have great weight in making the law of the State; the common law of the people is based upon the customs of the people, and those customs, so long as they are not unlawful or in conflict with well defined rules of law, are accepted as the law of the land. In the death of Judge WILLIAMS, the people of this State lost a wise and sagacious law-giver, and the manifestations of their regard and their grief over his taking away, give proof of the high place he occupied in the popular heart and the gratitude of the people to him for the valuable services he rendered them. It was written of him by the editor of a prominent legal journal that "Justice

Williams' death will be a distinct loss to the Supreme Court, to which his abilities were fully complementary. Wise from long experience, his mind was both powerful and astute; and difficult and intricate questions of applied law marshaled themselves with convincing clearness under his facile pen, guided by a mind naturally strong, richly reinforced by the midnight studies of twice twenty years, and rendered still more efficient by long experience in judicial exercise, both in the Common Pleas and Supreme Court."

In religious matters Brother WILLIAMS took an active part. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and an Elder thereof. He was frequently elected to take part in the councils of the church, in the Presbytery and Synod, and was chosen by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Churches in the United States as a principal delegate to represent the Church at the Seventh General Council of the "Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the World, holding the Presbyterian system" to be held in the city of Washington, D. C., September 27 to October 6, 1899, which he had accepted. He was also sent as a delegate to the Pan Presbyterian Council in the year 1877. In every station in life Brother WILLIAMS was called upon to fill, he did his duty well and efficiently, and to the entire satisfaction of those who elected or delegated him to the positions he was called upon to occupy. The death of so great and good a man is indeed a loss to the entire community.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Brother SAMUEL C.

PERKINS offered the following resolutions, which were, on motion, unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That Grand Lodge with deep and heartfelt grief have to record the recent death of their Grand Master, Hon. HENRY W. WILLIAMS, so soon after his election and installation to the highest office in the Craft of Freemasonry.

Resolved, That Grand Lodge bear willing and sincere testimony to the high Masonic qualities of Grand Master HENRY W. WILLIAMS, as developed in the progressive steps by which he has advanced through the successive degrees and offices, with a thorough and intelligent appreciation of the principles and advantages of the Craft.

Resolved, That the high character, calm judicial faculties of his mind, the warmly felt and expressive feelings of his heart, in all his fraternal relations, greatly endeared Grand Master WILLIAMS to the Fraternity and deepen their sense of the loss they have sustained by his death after so brief an exercise of the prerogatives and duties of his high office.

Resolved, That Grand Lodge marks with great satisfaction their appreciation of his pronounced moral and Christian character, and of the dignity and honor with which he has filled high offices in the judiciary of this Commonwealth, and of the respect and esteem in which he was held by the communities in which he lived.

Resolved, That as a token of respect to his memory, the furniture and Jewels of Grand Lodge be draped in mourning for six months.

Resolved, That Grand Lodge tenders its warmest sympathy and condolence to the widow and family of Grand Master HENRY W. WILLIAMS in their bereavement, with earnest prayer that they may be comforted by the God of all Comfort.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered on the minutes of Grand Lodge and that a properly engrossed copy thereof, signed by the Grand Officers, be sent to the widow and family of our Grand Master.

Resolved, That these resolutions, with such other matter relating to the life and character of Right Worshipful Brother HENRY W. WILLIAMS as the Acting Grand Master may approve, be printed, and copies sent to the several Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge is in correspondence and to each Subordinate Lodge under this Jurisdiction.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Brother MICHAEL ARNOLD addressed Grand Lodge as follows :

Lamenting our loss caused by the death of Grand Master WILLIAMS, we give expression to our feelings in the resolutions offered by Past Grand Master PERKINS. They will keep alive in the memory of the Brethren the recollection of Brother WILLIAMS' virtues, his services and his devotion to the interests of the Fraternity. We have reason to be proud that we had so distinguished a Brother as Grand Master WILLIAMS invested with the highest honors that Grand Lodge can confer, while we are conscious that Brother WILLIAMS reflected

lustre upon the Fraternity by his high personal character and his attachments to the principles and landmarks of Freemasonry. Brother WILLIAMS was the third Grand Master who died in office, so far as I can recollect or have any information. The event is so unusual that when it happens, it comes as a shock which adds to the keenness of our grief. This Grand Lodge has been fortunate in its selection of Brethren to govern it. The wisdom and good judgment of the Brethren has enabled them to obtain rulers who are wise in council, and temperate but firm in government. Had Brother WILLIAMS lived three years more, he would have become the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, by virtue of seniority of commission among the Judges of that Court, and the fourth Chief Justice who has been Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. We have had the wisdom and services of clergymen, bankers, merchants, lawyers, and that active, energetic and progressive body of men called business men, so that we have had from among our own members Brethren who have designed, erected and adorned our Temple, while others have managed our finances with a degree of sagacity and success not surpassed by any association of men.

Brother WILLIAMS always took a deep interest in the welfare of this Grand Lodge. He served as District Deputy Grand Master, as a member of the Committee on Correspondence, as Junior and Senior Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Master, and finally, but alas, for too short a time, as Right Worshipful Grand Master. He was wise in council,

ardent in his affections for the Brethren and Grand Lodge, and earnest and efficient in all the offices in which he served. Not even the infirmities of disease could keep him away from Grand Lodge and his Masonic duties. He assisted at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Capitol Building in Harrisburg last summer, and he constituted a Lodge in the western part of the State at a time when travel and labor bore heavily upon him. He was present at the Annual Communication on St. John's Day, when he was installed as Grand Master, and it was then apparent that the labors of the day told heavily upon him. Yet he did not succumb. He persisted in his labors at Court until within a few days of his death. His wonderful energy aided him in gratifying his ambition to do all of his duty to the last. As we celebrate his virtues, we feel that no eulogies could be more sincere and better deserved than the tribute we now pay to the memory of deeply lamented Grand Master WILLIAMS.

Yielding to the decrees of the Great Architect of the Universe, we mourn our loss and submit.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Brother WILLIAM J. KELLY addressed Grand Lodge as follows :

Right Worshipful Grand Master: I arise to say a few words expressive of my own and the feelings of this Grand Lodge upon the sad subject of the death of our late Grand Master, HENRY W. WILLIAMS.

I think it peculiarly appropriate that I should speak of my own knowledge of Brother WILLIAMS, he being my immediate successor in the Oriental Chair of this Grand Lodge.

To adequately treat of his merits as a citizen, a husband, a father, a Mason, and a man, would take more time than I feel at liberty to give to it during this busy session, and those who have preceded me in their eulogiums upon his life and character, will excuse me from repeating what they have so well said, and which he so justly deserved. Some few points, however, I feel entirely competent to speak of from personal knowledge, aside from my close association with him in our Masonic careers. I was for six years, while living at the Continental Hotel, his next door neighbor, so to speak, and opportunities afforded me by the frequent visits paid by him to my room and by me to his rooms, enabled me to know the man and to judge him accurately and honestly. He was a man without guile; honest and sincere in every act and thought, tenderly attentive to his family in all their requirements, and so delicate in his attentions that when his death occurred, and I called upon his family to tender condolence, I shall never forget the act of his only daughter, who in that feeling of confidence derived from strong friendship, came to me and moaned forth that her only friend had been taken away from her. The thought that was expressed by her was derived from that pure, single and strong affection that could only have been created by the greatest tenderness, the utmost truthfulness borne out from the highest manhood.

Personally I was honored with the warmest friendship and greatest confidence of Judge WILLIAMS, and if I could feel that I deserved so good a tribute from so grand a man I would feel proud of myself, indeed. His death, though not entirely unexpected to me, gave me a shock that I shall never forget, and in saying to this Grand Lodge that he realized, in my judgment, the highest type of true manhood, I pay him an honest compliment and as grand a one as my mind can now conceive of.

The following preamble and resolutions from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey were read :

It has pleased Almighty God, to take from the activities of a useful life, R. W. HENRY WARREN WILLIAMS, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, whose decease fills the hearts of the Brethren of our Sister Jurisdiction with the deepest sorrow ;

THEREFORE, *Be it Resolved*, That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Jersey recognize in the death of R. W. HENRY WARREN WILLIAMS the loss to the Fraternity of a distinguished Mason and a man of marked ability in the profession which he adorned ; that his integrity of character, and the exemplification in his life of the highest, noblest, and most exalted principles which should govern our living, is and should be an inspiration to every Mason.

Resolved, That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Jersey extends the hand of fraternal and brotherly love to the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and express in this simple Resolution the sincere sorrow we

share with her in the affliction that has befallen the Craft in the death of our Brother.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions, suitably engrossed, be sent to the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania by the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted unanimously, by a rising vote at the 112th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, F. and A. M.



Dated Trenton, N. J., January 27, 1899.

THOS. H. R. REDWAY,
Grand Secretary.

Resolutions and letters of condolence were received from the following Lodges and Brethren :

Lodges Numbers 45, 121, 231, 243, 314, 383, 564.

Brother JOSIAH W. EWAN, M. W. Grand Master of New Jersey; Brother J. HARMER RILE, M. W. Grand Master of Delaware; Brother THOMAS J. SHRYOCK, M. W. Grand Master of Maryland; Brother EDWARD M. L. EHLERS, R. W. Grand Secretary of New York.

Extract from the Minutes.

William A. Smith
Grand Secretary

